

Miami Herald



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PEACEFUL RALLY IN MIAMI

Protesters marched from the Richard E. Gerstein Justice Building through Wynwood streets in Miami on Tuesday as hundreds protested the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police officers. Crowd sizes were smaller than on the weekend, and demonstrators also marched through Overtown and downtown Miami. There were no arrests. There was also a protest in Coral Springs. **Story, 3A**

FORT LAUDERDALE | SUNDAY

‘They ignited the situation’: At protest, police fired rubber bullets

BY SARAH BLASKEY AND NICHOLAS NEHAMAS
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LaToya Ratlieff was stumbling away from a cloud of tear gas in downtown Fort Lauderdale Sunday — choking, coughing and trying not to vomit — when a police officer shot a foam rubber bullet at her head. The round, traveling more than twice the speed of a Major League fastball, smashed into her face just above the right eye, opening up a bloody gash. The impact brought Ratlieff, who was attending an anti-



Ratlieff

■ **At a peaceful anti-police brutality rally organized by Black Lives Matter Alliance of Broward on Sunday, Fort Lauderdale police fired rubber bullets at peaceful protesters, in one case causing a fractured eye socket of a peaceful protester who had been on her knees moments earlier.**

police brutality protest, to her knees. Her eye started to swell shut. Her eye socket was fractured, her medical records show. The projectile that likely struck her, known as a foam baton, has roughly the density of a racquet ball and is fired from a rifle-barreled launcher. Foam batons are considered a lethal munition when aimed at the head, according to the manu-

facturer’s manual. Shooting Ratlieff in the face as she left the scene would seem to violate the Fort Lauderdale Police Department’s policy on proper use of so-called “less lethal munitions.” The weapons policy, posted on the department’s website, states officers should aim for the head and neck “only if deadly force becomes necessary.” Moments before being shot around 7 p.m., Ratlieff was kneeling on the ground, en-

couraging other marchers to stay peaceful and join her. From their knees, the group begged police in riot gear to stop using tear gas on protesters, who had been angered after seeing an officer shove a kneeling woman minutes earlier and had tossed water bottles at police in response. The protest had been peaceful all afternoon. As Ratlieff and the other protesters kneeled, the situation seemed back under control. But police resumed launching tear gas canisters from behind a wall of shields. Several protesters backed away with their hands in the air. When the gas began to

SEE SUNDAY, 10A

HIGH SCHOOLS

Instead of ‘Pomp and Circumstance,’ Class of 2020 graduates with pandemic and protest

■ **The Class of 2020 was born around the 9/11 attacks and will graduate during a pandemic and protests. The coronavirus canceled cherished events like prom and graduation, but the community is trying to make the best of it.**

BY COLLEEN WRIGHT
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There is a word that high school graduates use to succinctly sum up what the pandemic has done to their senior year. “It just sucks,” said Genisse Gonzalez, 17. She hasn’t missed a day of school since kindergarten and has never received a final grade lower than an A. But in this pandemic-shortened

school year, there was no award ceremony to reward her accomplishment. “They gave me a pin to wear on graduation...,” she said. “I appreciate the medals and the trophies. The fact that in my high school I didn’t get anything big, for 13 years I feel is a long time. I feel they should make it more recognized, doing that hard work.” Genisse and her 21,000 fellow graduates of Miami-

SEE GRADS, 4A



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Class of 2020 High School Seniors take group pictures as they joined a parade through Aventura on May 14.

Tribute to Class of 2020

Join us in a virtual community celebration at 8:20 tonight at www.MiamiHerald.com that will showcase the diverse talents of the Class of 2020 and feature some special guest appearances as our high school seniors set off on the next chapter of their lives. And on June 14, we’ll present a special keepsake section that honors all the graduates.

A NATION ERUPTS

Trump uses full might of U.S. law enforcement to crush protests

■ **In all, nearly a dozen federal agencies and components have joined in President Donald Trump’s effort to quell protests incited by the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis and ostensibly to put an end to rioting and looting.**

BY ZOLAN KANNO-YOUNGS AND KATIE BENNER
New York Times

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump’s vow to “dominate” demonstrators protesting police brutality has mobilized the full might of federal law enforcement, from border agencies and the Drug Enforcement Administration to FBI hostage rescue teams, working alongside local law enforcement, the military police and the National Guard. The extraordinary deployments have reached the streets of San Diego, Las Vegas and Buffalo, New York. But nowhere is the show of force as strong as in Washington, where Trump is seeking to demonstrate his might by flooding the city’s downtown with agents from the FBI, the Bureau of

SEE TRUMP, 5A

More inside

- Convictions unlikely for those arrested at protests in Miami-Dade, **3A**
- Miami-Dade curfew could last till weekend, **4A**
- More protests sweep U.S. cities as Trump decries ‘lowlifes,’ **5A**

IN POLITICS:

- Trump says GOP is pulling convention from North Carolina, **5A**

THE VIRUS CRISIS

As Florida reopens, deaths piling up in nursing homes

■ **Effective Saturday, COVID-19 deaths in Florida nursing homes and ALFs now account for more than 50 percent of all such deaths in the state.**

BY CAROL MARBIN MILLER AND BEN WIEDER
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Over the most recent week, elders living in long-term care facilities accounted for 7 in 10 Florida deaths resulting from the coronavirus, as the pandemic increasingly became a scourge of the old and frail. Though the cumulative overall number of deaths attributed to COVID-19, the illness caused by exposure to the coronavirus, doubled in May, coronavirus deaths at nursing homes and assisted living facilities tripled. As of Monday, 1,236 people at long-term care facilities had died from COVID-19. It’s part of a nationwide phenomenon. Across the country, nearly

SEE VIRUS, 10A

MORE INSIDE

More than 57,000 cases of COVID-19 in state, **4A**

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